

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Mr. R. K. Cornwallis has very kindly drawn my attention to the following information given in a book by the Rev. Leonard Jenyns published in 1846 and entitled *Observations in Natural History with an introduction on Habits of Observing as connected with the study of that Science also a Calendar of Periodic Phenomena in Natural History; with remarks on the importance of such registers*. The author was Vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck and on page 150 he records, "In the spring of 1823 we picked up two young birds alive under the nests, just fledged, in which each feather was tipped with dirty white, giving the whole plumage a speckled appearance." It seems highly probable that these were specimens of the "Mottled" variety.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—Miss A. M. Kendall informs me (*in litt.*) that in May, 1950 a young Rook barred all over was shot at Rushton by Capt. Roberts-George.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of this variety on the vice county system, and it strongly suggests that gene flow is responsible for the resultant pattern of distribution. It may well be that the "Mottled" variety will eventually be proved to have occurred in Yorkshire, thus connecting the East Anglian and Border pockets, and also in Warwickshire and Worcestershire which would then link up with East Anglia and Herefordshire. Should this be so the only really isolated localities left would be Somerset and Surrey-Kent south of the Thames.

A New Race of Brubru *Nilaus afer* (Latham) from South-Eastern Africa

by MR. P. A. CLANCEY

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The populations of the small laniid *Nilaus afer* (Latham) resident in Natal, Zululand, Swaziland and the extreme southern parts of Mozambique are now found to differ sufficiently from the wide-ranging *Nilaus afer brubru* (Latham), as to warrant their nomenclatural segregation. The new race may be known as

Nilaus afer solivagus, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Lubuli Police Camp, near Nsoko, south-eastern Swaziland. 28th August, 1955. 300 ft. a.s.l. Durban Museum Expedition. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Diagnosis: Adult male. Differs from *Nilaus afer brubru* (Latham), 1801: Orange River, South Africa, in having the black of the upper-parts deeper and more coruscant, and the whitish dorsal streak yellowish tinged. On the under-parts creamy, less snowy white, and with the chestnut side-stripes conspicuously narrower and darker. Adult female. Very similar above to *N.a.brubru*, but dorsal streak distinctly yellowish tinged. On

under-parts markedly different owing to the reduced size of the side-stripes, which on the flanks are vestigial and only indicated by a light wash of yellowish cinnamon. Smaller in size. Wings of paratypical *N.a. solivagus* specimens—4 ♂♂ 80.5 – 84.5 (82.9), 2 ♀♀ 82, 83 mm., as against 4 ♂♂ 87 – 89 (87.9), 3 ♀♀ 83 – 88 (85.7) mm. in topotypical *N.a. brubru*.

Material: *N.a. solivagus* (paratypical), 6; *N.a. brubru* (topotypical 9, others 4), 13. Also material of *N.a. nigritemporalis* Reichenow and *N.a. massaicus* Neumann.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 84, culmen from base 19, tarsus 22.5, tail 53 mm.

Range: Locally distributed in some thornveld districts of the high interior of Natal, and in Zululand, eastern Swaziland and the extreme southern parts of Mozambique.

Remarks: Topotypical material of *N.a. brubru* is extremely rare in collections, but through the efforts of the Durban and East London Museums a series of nine is now available from the Orange River and Kenhardt, in the north-western Cape Province. This latter locality represents an interesting extension of range to the south of the Orange River. *N.a. brubru* ranges from the north-western Cape and Orange River northwards to south-western Angola in the west and to the Zambesi River valley in the east, where it meets and intergrades with *N.a. nigritemporalis*. A single example of *N.a. solivagus* exhibiting in part the characters ascribed to *N.a. nigritemporalis* was obtained in 1933 by the late Dr. Austin Robert's party at Otobotini, in north-eastern Zululand. No other such example has since been obtained.

The Names of some Francolins

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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In "The Ibis":1952, p. 306 I proposed the fusion of *Pternistis* with *Francolinus*. I pointed out that this involved two possible changes of name but that there was doubt as to whether they represented valid races needing new names. In one case it now appears that a new name is needed. *Pternistis afer cunenensis* Roberts Ann Trvl.Mus.15. p. 22. 1932 is pre-occupied by *Scleroptila jugularis cunenensis* Roberts described in the same place on the same page, since both birds belong to the genus *Francolinus*. Hall and Macdonald have now shown that the "*Pternistis*" so described is valid, the data being given in Ann.Trvl.Mus.23.p. 7. 1957. I therefore propose *Francolinus afer palliditectus* nom.nov to replace *Pternistis afer cunenensis*.